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10/588,594	08/07/2006	Fumikazu Taguchi	10A 3883 PCT	8736

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EXAMINER	
LYJAK, LORI LYNN	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
3612	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/588,594	TAGUCHI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Lori L. Lyjak	3612	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *07 August 2006*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-15* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-15* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *07 August 2006* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese reference 2002-120764.

Regarding claim 1, Japanese reference '764 discloses an octothorp-shaped chassis frame formed by joining an end portion of a joining member in abutting contact with an outer face of a joined member, wherein the joining member is formed of a hollow pipe, the end portion of the joining member is gradually expanded to form a joint expanded in a flared skirt shape, and an outer edge of the joint is brought into contact with and welded to the outer face of the joined member to join the joining member to the outer face of the joined member.

Regarding claim 2, Japanese reference '764 discloses the chassis frame according to claim 1, wherein the joining member is a side member and the joined member is an end cross member.

Regarding claim 3, Japanese reference '764 discloses the chassis frame according to claim 1, wherein the joining member is a cross member and the joined member is a side member.

Regarding claim 4, Japanese reference '764 discloses the chassis frame according to claim 1, wherein both the joining member and joined member are formed of pipes having circular sectional shapes and the outer edge of the joint is substantially in an circular arc shape following a pattern of the outer face of the joined member in a side view.

Regarding claim 5, Japanese reference '764 discloses the chassis frame according to claim 1, wherein the joining member is a pipe having a circular sectional shape, the joined member is a pipe having a rectangular sectional shape, and the outer edge of the joint is substantially in a linear shape following a pattern of the outer face of the joined member in a side view.

Regarding claim 6, Japanese reference '764 discloses the chassis frame according to claim 1, wherein the outer edge of the joint is in a shape following a pattern of the outer face of the joined member in a side view and is in an elliptic shape having a diameter in an extending direction of the joined member greater than that of a diameter in an orthogonal direction to the extending direction of the joined member in a front view.

Regarding claim 7, Japanese reference '764 discloses the chassis frame according to claim 1, wherein the outer edge of the joint is in a shape following a pattern of the outer face of the joined member in a side view, and is in a cross shape respectively extending in an extending direction of the joined member and in an orthogonal direction to the extending direction of the joined member in a front view.

Regarding claim 8, Japanese reference '764 discloses the chassis frame according to claim 1, wherein the joint is symmetric respectively in an extending direction of the joined member and in an orthogonal direction to the extending direction of the joined member with respect to an axial direction of the joining member.

Regarding claim 9, Japanese reference '764 discloses the chassis frame according to claim 1, wherein the joining member is joined in abutting contact with the outer face of the joined member to be orthogonal with respect to the outer face thereof in a plan view and a side view.

Regarding claim 10, Japanese reference '764 discloses the chassis frame according to claim 1, wherein the joining member is joined in abutting contact with the outer face of the joined member to be oblique with respect to the outer face thereof in a plan view.

Regarding claim 11, Japanese reference '764 discloses the chassis frame according to claim 1, wherein the joining member is joined in abutting contact with the outer face of the joined member to be oblique with respect to the outer ~face thereof in a side view.

Regarding claim 12, Japanese reference '764 discloses the chassis frame according to claim 1, wherein each joint is provided with a swelling rib forming a groove recessed from the outer face of the joined member.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese reference 2002-120754 in view of Japanese reference 2002-178043.

Regarding claim 13, Japanese reference '754 discloses a method of manufacturing an octothorp-shaped chassis frame formed by joining an end portion of a joining member formed of a hollow pipe in abutting contact with an outer face of a joined member, wherein the joining member joins to the outer face of the joined member by welding an outer edge of a flared-skirt-shaped joint formed at the end portion of the joining member by bringing into contact with the outer face of the joined member; but does not show the flared-skirt-shaped joint formed at the end portion of the joining member is formed, using a forming punch comprising a base portion having a surface following a pattern of the outer face of the joined member, and a flared-skirt- shaped protruding portion protruding from the base portion in a protruding direction aligned with a direction in which the joining member joins to the joined member, by pushing the flared-skirt-shaped protruding portion of the forming punch into the end portion of the position-fixed joining member by aligning the protruding direction of the flared-skirt-shaped protruding portion with an axial direction of the joining member, to expand the end portion of the joining member by the flared-skirt-shaped protruding portion.

Japanese reference '043 teaches flared-skirt-shaped joint formed at the end portion of the joining member is formed, using a forming punch comprising a base portion having a surface following a pattern of the outer face of the joined member, and a flared-skirt- shaped protruding portion protruding from the base portion in a protruding direction aligned with a direction in which the joining member joins to the joined member, by pushing the flared-skirt-shaped protruding portion of the forming punch into the end portion of the position-fixed joining member by aligning the protruding direction of the flared-skirt-shaped protruding portion with an axial direction of the joining member, to expand the end portion of the joining member by the flared-skirt-shaped protruding portion.

Regarding claim 13, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the method of manufacturing an octothorp-shaped chassis frame of Japanese reference '754 with flared-skirt-shaped joint, as taught by Japanese reference '043, in order to expand the end portion of the joining member.

Regarding claim 14, Japanese reference '754, as modified, discloses the method of manufacturing a chassis frame according to claim 13, wherein the forming punch includes a protruding portion substantially in a truncated cone shape formed of an upper end face in a shape identical to an inside shape of the joining member, a lower end face having an outer edge in a side view having a shape following a pattern of the surface of the base portion which follows the outer face of the joined member and the outer edge in a front view in an elliptic shape having a major axis in an extending direction of the joined member and a minor axis in the orthogonal direction to the extending direction of the joined member, and a curved face connecting the upper end face and the lower end face.

Regarding claim 15, Japanese reference '754, as modified, discloses the method of manufacturing a chassis frame according to claim 13, wherein the forming punch includes a protruding portion substantially in a truncated cone shape formed of an upper end face in a shape identical to an inside shape of the joining member, a lower end face having an outer edge in a side view having a shape following a pattern of the surface of the base portion which follows the outer face of the joined member and the outer edge in a front view having a cross shape extending respectively in an extending direction and in an orthogonal direction to the extending direction of the joined member, and a curved face connecting the upper end face and the lower end face.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lori L. Lyjak whose telephone number is 571-272-6658. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Dayoan can be reached on 571-272-6659. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would

like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Lori L. Lyjak/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3612

lll
March 16, 2009